

**Montana Department of Military Affairs  
Disaster & Emergency Services Division  
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for September 7, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

***Wildfires of 2003***

Attention \* - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

**I. Background Information:**

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

**II. Current Montana Fire Situation: *Minimal initial attack - 9 new fires 16,494 acres***

**A. Large Fires**

*Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5*

*National Preparedness Level = 5*

- *Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:*
  - *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mortier) – 25,195 acres, 13% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell.*
  - *Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 10,601 acres, 5% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.*
  - *Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Saleen) – 52,030 acres, 81% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
  - *Rampage Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 20,871 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SE of West Glacier.*
  - *Little Salmon Creek Wildland Fire Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath) – 37,471 acres, 0% contained, located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
  - *Little Salmon Creek Fire Use Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath). This 32,811 acre lightning caused Wildland Fire Use complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
  - *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 56,830 acres, 60% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
  - *Trapper Creek Complex – 19,107 acres, 45% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.*
  - *Crazy Horse – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) – 11,200 acres, 80% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*
- *Missoula Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:*
  - *Fish Creek Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Lohrey) – 35,900 acres, 50% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.*
  - *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter) – 25,100 acres, 70% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.*

- *Mineral/Primm – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Broyles) – 24,765 acres, 65% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.*
- *Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) – 8,296 acres, 85% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.*
- *Lincoln Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 39,604 acres, 77% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.*
- *Cathedral Peak – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) – 2,830 acres, 50% contained, 10 miles S of Nye.*
- *Rathbone – Type 2 Incident Management Team (VanBruggen) – 3,010 acres, 95% contained, 17 miles N of West Yellowstone.*
- *Winslow – 13,438 acres, 75% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview.*
- *Beaver Lake Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Brunner) – 17,448 acres, 52% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula.*
- *East Complex – 23,500 acres, 90% contained, 4 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.*
- *Brundage - Fire Use Management Team (Cook) - 1,790 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles NE of Gardner.*
- *Burnt Ridge Sheep Camp Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 2,930 acres, 100% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart.*
- *Rough Draw Complex – 2,148 acres, 100% contained, 5 miles S of Livingston.*

**B. Initial Attack**      *Light initial attack - 10 new fires 28,572 acres*

**C. State Forecast For Montana**

*\*\*\*Fire Weather Watch For All Zones Of North Central And Part Of Southwest Montana Tonight And Monday For Strong Gusty Shifting Winds And Wind Shift Associated With Cold Frontal Passage Along With Low Relative Humidities, Possible Dry Lightning And High Fire Danger...Increased Thunderstorm Activity...Very High Fire Dangers...And Active Fires... Expected To Diminish Tuesday Morning And The Threat Of Thunderstorms Will Come To An End.\*\*\**

***FIRE WEATHER ZONES INCLUDED IN THIS WATCH ARE:  
MTZ 112 THROUGH MTZ 133***

***STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT  
440 AM MDT SUN SEP 7 2003***

***WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE***

*Today - Partly Cloudy With Areas Of Smoke. Isolated Showers And Thunderstorms... Mainly This Afternoon. Highs 80 To 90.*

*Tonight - Mostly Cloudy. Chance Of Rain Showers...Slight Chance Of Evening Thunderstorms Central And South. Lows 45 To 55.*

*Monday - Chance Of Rain Showers. Mostly Cloudy And Much Cooler. Highs 61 To 71.*

***CENTRAL MONTANA***

*Today - Partly Cloudy And Smoky. Isolated Showers And Afternoon Thunderstorms East And Over The Western Mountains. Highs In The 80s.*

*Tonight - Partly Cloudy And Smoky. Isolated Showers And Thunderstorms Over The*

**Western Mountains. Lows In The Upper 40s And 50s.  
Monday - Mostly Cloudy. Cooler. Chance Of Showers And Afternoon Thunderstorms.  
Highs In The 60s West And 70s East.**

**SOUTHWEST MONTANA**

**Today - Partly Cloudy. Isolated Showers And Afternoon Thunderstorms West. Highs In The Lower 70s To Mid 80s.**

**Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Isolated Showers And Thunderstorms West Lows In The Mid 40s To Mid 50s.**

**Monday - Mostly Cloudy. Cooler. Chance Of Rain Showers. Highs In The Upper 50s To Upper 60s.**

**EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA**

**Today - Partly Cloudy With Areas Of Smoke And Haze. A Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms. Highs From The Mid 80s North And West...To The Mid 90s Southeast.**

**Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Lows In The 50s And 60s.**

**Monday - Mostly Cloudy. Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms. Highs From The 70s West To 90s East.**

**III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:**

*The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:*

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Dawson County	Emergency Declaration	8/27/03

The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:

Flathead	Lincoln	Broadwater	Chouteau
Glacier		Cascade	Jefferson
Lake	Sanders		Meagher
Lewis& Clark	Teton		Mineral

Missoula  
Pondera

Powell  
Toole

#### IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

Current Montana National Guard Resources			
Montana Army Guard		EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard
NG SOLDIERS	AIRCRAFT MODULES	ARMY & AIR GUARD EQUIPMENT	NG AIRMEN
	1 UH-60S	27 HMMVs	
		1 HEMTTs (Fuelers)	
		6 1 ¼ TRAILER	
		9 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
		5 M1009 TRUCK	
		2 HEMTT (Wrecker)	
		7 Pick Up	
		2 VANS	
		1 7-TON TRUCK	
		1 25' FLATBED TRAILER	
		1 M939 SERIES 5T CARGO	
		1 CUCV	
		1 One Ton	
245 Soldiers Assigned	1 Aircraft Module	64 HVY Equipment	133 Airmen Assigned

#### Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
  - Northwest Area Command
  - Missoula Area Command

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

#### V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

#### VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

*For the latest fire restrictions:*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

*For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:*

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

*For the latest closures and evacuations:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations\\_road\\_closures](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures)

*For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed\\_sit.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm)

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac\\_priorities.doc](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc)